

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

FY 2004 Legislative Update



**2003 AFRC Spouses'
Conference**

U.S. AIR FORCE

**Mr. Wayne Gracie
HQ USAF/REI
28 June 2003**



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Overview

- **The U.S. Congress**
- **FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Bills**
- **Non-Regular (Reserve) Retirement Bills**
- **The Way Ahead**
- **Getting Involved - Staying Informed**



The U.S. Congress

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Makeup of Congress

US Senate

Republicans	51
Democrats	48
Independents	1

US House

Republicans	229
Democrats	205
Independents	1

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Military Experience

<u>104th</u>	<u>105th</u>	<u>106th</u>	<u>107th</u>	<u>108th</u>	
House	36%	33%	31%	31%	27%
Senate	55%	47%	41%	38%	36%

- **Elected officials are very interested in and supportive of the military**
 - **But fewer have first hand experience of serving in the military**
 - **Therefore, Reservists must inform them of capabilities and accomplishments**

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FY04 National Defense Authorization Actions



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Simplification of Annual Participation of Ready Reserve

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Typically, reservists are required to perform the equivalent of 38 training days in the form of 48 periods of inactive duty for training (traditionally, four periods over a weekend) and 14 days of AT. Others fulfill training and active duty requirements in at least 32 different categories of duty status.

House (section 523)

- Restates the annual training requirement as 38 days per year

Senate

- Not addressed

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Status



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Recognition of Military Families

The reservist's family is an important part of the Reserve Triad - reservist, family, employer

House (section 562)

- **Requires SecDef to implement and sustain programs to celebrate family contributions**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

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Status



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Policy on Concurrent Deployment

Currently, dual-military members with minor children are required to deploy if called

House

- **Not addressed**

Senate (section 563)

- **Requires SecDef to prescribe policy for concurrent depl for dual-mil members with minor children (w/in 180 days of enact)**

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Status



Military Pay Raise

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The PB recommends a range of military pay increases from 2% up to 6.5%, targeted by rank and years of experience. Differential pay increases enhance DOD's ability to retain its most experienced personnel.

House (section 601)

- Across the board 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.1%

Senate (section 601)

- Across the board 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.15%

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Annual Pay Adjustment Process

Current law requires an annual adjustment of basic pay for military members at 0.5% above the Employment Cost Index (ECI) through 2006 (otherwise equals the increase of GS civilian employees)

House

- **Not addressed**

Senate (section 602)

- **Requires annual adjustment to equal the ECI (after 2006) in lieu of current ECI - 0.5%**

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Status



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Commanders' Responsibility Pay

37 USC 306 authorizes special pay to active duty members in positions of unusual responsibility (limits number to 5% of all O-3s and below and 10% of all O-4s, O-5s and O-6s)

House

- **Not addressed**

Senate (section 615)

- **Authorizes reservists to receive this pay at 1/30th of the monthly rate**

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Status



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Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger Pay for IDTs

Currently, reservists serving on IDT are not authorized to receive hostile fire pay and imminent danger pay (HFP/IDP)

House (section 616)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP (effective 11 Sep 01)**

Senate (section 620)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP (effective 11 Sep 01)**

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Status



Reimbursement for Lodging Expenses While TDY

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Payment of lodging per diem is not authorized for reservists on Temporary Duty (TDY) during periods of leave or a return to Place From Which Called (Or Ordered) To Active Duty (PLEAD)

House (section 633)

- **Authorizes reservists/retirees the lodging cost for periods of leave**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

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Status



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Use of Commissaries by Reservists

Current law authorizes reservists up to 24 visits to the commissary each year for RC members with at least 50 points and gray area retirees and based on participation for members without 50 points

House (section 651)

- **Auth reservists and retirees use of commissaries on same basis as active duty and dependents**

Senate (section 369)

- **Elim the annual limitation on use of commissaries by reservists with at least 50 pts and retirees**

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Status



Retirement Bills

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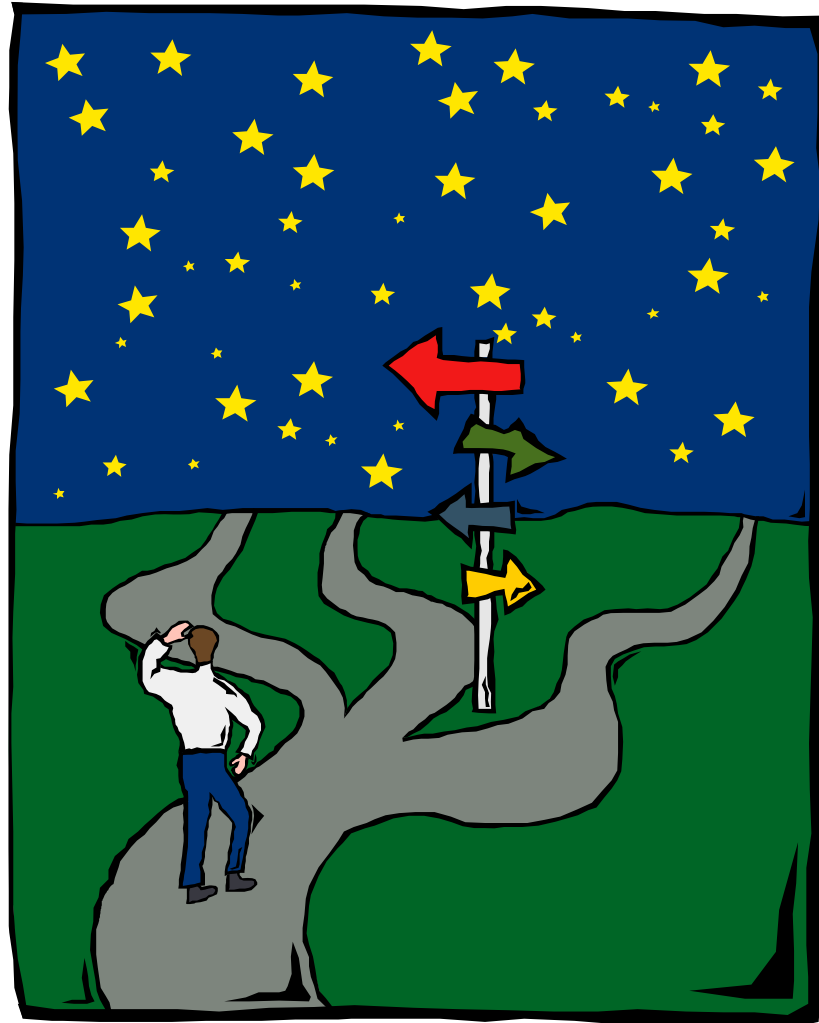
■ Reserve Retirement

Bill	Sponso r	Co-S	Description and Last Action
HR33 1	Wilson	18	Immediate annuity; Introduced 1/8/03
HR74 2	Saxton	117	Lower retirement age to 55; Introduced 2/12/03
S445	Landrieu	1	Retirement buydown; Introduced 2/25/03
S103 5	Corzine	5	Reserve Retirement at age 55; Introduced 5/9/03



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The Way Ahead... Future Initiatives





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Future Initiatives

- **Pay Raise - ECI -0.5% / =ECI / ECI +0.5%**
- **IDT Points Creditable Towards Retirement**
- **1/30th Rule**
- **Full Commissary Shopping Privileges
(HASC/SASC)**
- **Eliminate BAH-II**
- **BAH for RC Without Dependents**
- **Reenlistment Bonus Past 20 years**
- **Payment of Lodging Expenses During
Contingency Operations (HASC)**
- **Medical/Dental Coverage**
- **Income Protection**



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Getting Involved...

Staying Informed...

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Avenues for Change

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- **Air Force Reserve Organizations**
 - **Command Channels**
 - **Policy Integration Directorate (AF/REI)**
 - www.re.hq.af.mil/rei/index/htm
 - **Air Force Reserve Advisory Board (AFRAB)**
 - www.afrc.af.mil/special/afrab/afrab.htm
- **DoD Organizations**
 - **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)**
 - www.esgr.org
- **Professional Military Organizations**



What You Can Do

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- **Stay informed & get involved**
 - **Follow the status of legislation; what your members are doing on the Hill**
 - **Ask unit leadership**
- **Communicate with members of Congress**
 - **Make sure it's done on your own time, own equipment**
- **Call REI if you need guidance**
- **Remember: As a **constituent**, you are your Congressional members' **FIRST PRIORITY!****



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How to Stay Informed

Internet Home Pages

AF/REI	www.re.hq.af.mil/rei/
Air Force Link	www.af.mil
Army	www.army.mil
Navy	www.navy.mil
Marine Corps	www.usmc.mil
Thomas	thomas.loc.gov
US Senate	www.senate.gov
US House	www.house.gov



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How to Stay Informed

Internet Home Pages

ROA [**www.roa.org**](http://www.roa.org)

AFA [**www.afa.org**](http://www.afa.org)

AFSA [**www.afsahq.org**](http://www.afsahq.org)

NCESGR [**www.esgr.org**](http://www.esgr.org)

Military Coalition
[**www.themilitarycoalition.org**](http://www.themilitarycoalition.org)

Members' individual home pages



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Summary

- **FY 2004 legislation is potentially very favorable to reservists and their family members**
- **Several issues to be worked in the future**
- **Legislation is a dynamic process with numerous key players**
 - **To ensure the Congress is informed of Reserve Component capabilities and accomplishments**
- **REI is available:**
 - **DSN 223-2452, 703-693-2452**
 - **www.re.hq.af.mil/rei**



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Questions?



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